

COMMITMENT



Texas Department of Health
Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program

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New Rescreening Policy Takes Effect September 1

A new policy on rescreening will take effect September 1 for all local Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) providers. In order to be most effective, breast cancer screening must be conducted at regular intervals. The BCCCP must offer rescreening services to eligible women. During each 12-month budget period, each provider must rescreen at least the minimum required percentage of women from the priority population.

The priority population is eligible women age 50-64 who received a BCCCP funded breast cancer screening (clinical breast examina-

tion and mammogram) during the previous 12-month budget period (baseline year). The woman must still meet BCCCP eligibility requirements.

All women age 50-64 must be recalled for screening and be rescreened unless they refuse or are no longer eligible for the Program.

Providers also must provide information on the need for regular screening to every woman during her regular visit. Information must be provided to women in writing and verbally.

The state office will provide support to providers to reach minimum rescreening rates. The

state office will: 1) provide a list of women who are due to be rescreened two months prior to their rescreening date; 2) develop materials for providers to use for rescreening including reminder notices or client incentives; 3) provide training on rescreening (see related article on page 3).

The policy was developed by a committee of local BCCCP providers and state office staff. The BCCCP Advisory Committee reviewed and approved the policy.

If you have any questions regarding the rescreening policy, contact Steve Wright, Public Information Coordinator, at (800) 452-1955.

Providers Use Audiocassettes to Reinforce Rescreening Message

A woman's visit to the doctor's office can be music to her ears. At some BCCCP provider locations, staff literally send women home with a song – in their hands.

The music is on an audiocassette entitled *Reminders for Life (Songs for the Soul)*, now available at no cost through the state office to all BCCCP providers.

The audiocassette is designed for

Hispanic women and features traditional Mexican music with brief dialogue segments between each song.

The dialogue emphasizes the need for regular breast examinations, mammograms and Pap tests. One side of the audiocassette is in Spanish, the other in English.

"These audiocassettes were

[Audiocassettes continued on page 2](#)

Reminder:

The Texas Department of Health can make no changes to BCCCP provider contracts after June 1

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BCCCP Briefs

Training

"Promoting the Health & Wellness of Women with Disabilities," will be held August 2 - 5, 1999 in San Antonio. For more information, contact Visions, USA, Inc. at (404) 880-0002 or visit their website at <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/programs/disabil/home.htm>

Internet

Visit the **Agency for Health Care Policy and Research** website for information about Put Prevention into Practice (PPIP) and information about healthcare research. The address is: <http://www.ahcpr.gov/>

Who to Call & How to Reach Us...

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Website Address

<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/bcccp/>

Local Changes

Please call or write Rhonnda Jones, Administrative Technician, with ANY changes in local phone numbers, personnel or providers. *Thank you.*

Providers Use Audiocassettes to Reinforce Rescreening Message

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designed to reinforce the rescreening message in an entertaining and memorable way," said Margaret C. Méndez, director of the Texas BCCCP. "Our hope is that women will listen to the music for entertainment, and then be prompted by the messages to return for their next regular screening."

In addition to the audiocassettes, the state office also provides supplemental materials such as adhesive stickers and appointment cards that can be customized with local or personal information.

Five BCCCP providers participated in a 1998 pilot project using these audiocassettes, reporting that they were well received by women enrolled for services, the general public and clinic staff. The pilot sites distributed the audiocassettes during women's clinic visits and also at community outreach events.

Providers participating in the pilot project were the City of Laredo Health Department, Community Action Corporation of South Texas (CACOST), Galveston County Health District, University of Texas Medical Branch - Conroe, and Tarrant County Public Health Department.

Providers reported that many women were enthused when offered the gift. Anita Rodriguez at CACOST recalled that women would say "Oh, wow. That's me!" when given their cassette which staff had personalized with the woman's name on the cover.

Each of the pilot sites used the

audiocassettes somewhat differently, making distribution fit their own operations.

The audiocassettes and accompanying materials were developed after extensive testing with Program-eligible women and providers. The Texas Department of Health and the National Center for Farmworker Health collaborated to develop the audiocassettes.

While this audiocassette is intended for Hispanic women, the Texas BCCCP is considering developing similar audiocassettes for other audiences.

Call Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist, at (800) 452-1955 to order the audiocassettes and other materials.



Audiocassette -- Cover of the audiocassette given to women to encourage rescreening.

Ask The Expert

*Don't forget, **you** can submit your own questions on any subject related to the program such as nursing, case management, billing, data or outreach. Send questions to Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756-3199.*

Q How can I make suggestions or get answers to different scenarios/ concerns that we experience within the program?

A You should contact a state office staff member who deals with the related material. Another option is to offer the topic for a Quality Assurance meeting. We will look for material that will benefit all providers. QA items are welcome throughout the year!

Q What is the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) standard for completing cancer staging?

A The BCCCP standard for completing cancer staging currently is six months, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would like staging done within 60 days from the date of diagnosis. All breast cancer cases must be staged. Cervical cancer cases of HGSIL and above must be staged.

Additional Changes to MQSA

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has made additional changes to the Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) rules, now called the Mammography Quality Reauthorization Act (MQRA).

One change is that all patients will have a summary report sent to them in "lay" language. All Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) clients having a mammogram will receive a written report of the results. The report should be written in a way that the woman can understand. It will be critical that providers include this information as a part of the client education process prior to the mammogram.

Another change is that original mammogram films will be either temporarily or permanently transferred upon the patient's request to a medical institution, a physician or to the patient directly. This means that the patient can have complete control over her films if she chooses. This could affect follow-up of clients with abnormal results if a client takes permanent possession of her films and those films are needed to make decisions on follow-up procedures.

Additionally, FDA's *Mammography Matters* newsletter will no longer be mailed. It now will be published on the Internet. You can access the newsletter at <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/mamonews.html>. If you have questions regarding MQSA, call the FDA hotline at (800) 838-7715.

Rescreening Training Announced

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) will provide training on the implementation of policies and systems to rescreen women seen through the BCCCP. BCCCP will offer two trainings this summer. The first will be at the Texas Department of Health central office in Austin on July 21. The second will be at South Texas Hospital in Harlingen on July 28. One person from each BCCCP provider should plan to attend one of the trainings. BCCCP will reimburse for one staff

member per provider to attend. The staff person attending should be the person who is responsible for implementing the agency's recall system.

In addition to training on the rescreening policy and the core messages communicated to women during their clinic visit, participants will learn about other providers' plans for the implementation of the rescreening policy. For additional questions about the training, contact Steve Wright, Public Information Coordinator, at (800) 452-1955.

FY 2000 Poverty Guidelines Announced

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently published the annual update to the federal poverty guidelines. The guidelines account for last calendar year's increase in prices measured by the Consumer Price Index and are used for administrative purposes by a number of government assistance programs.

The Breast and Cervical Cancer

Control Program (BCCCP) uses these guidelines as one of several criteria for eligibility. The state office will provide laminated income guideline tables to local provider staff.

If you have questions on the new guidelines, contact Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist, at (800) 452-1955.

FY 2000 Poverty Guidelines Maximum Income			
Family size	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1 Person	\$16,480	\$1,373	\$343
2 People	\$22,120	\$1,843	\$461
3 People	\$27,776	\$2,314	\$579
4 People	\$33,400	\$2,783	\$696
5 People	\$39,040	\$3,253	\$813
6 People	\$44,680	\$3,723	\$931
7 People	\$50,320	\$4,193	\$1,048
8 People	\$55,960	\$4,633	\$1,166

Important Dates

May

May - National Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month
National Osteoporosis Prevention Month

May 9 - Mother's Day

May 31 - Memorial Day
State Office Closed

May 31 - World No Tobacco Day

July

July 21 - Rescreening Training - Austin

July 28 - Rescreening Training - Harlingen

August

August 2-5 - Disabilities Conference (See BCCCP Briefs on page 2)

BCCCP Statistics

Women Served*:

110,725

Breast Screenings:

135,923

Cervical Screenings:

101,428

Breast Cancers:

705

Cervical Carcinoma in situ:

1514

Invasive Cervical Cancer:

51

*As of April 13, 1999

Commitment

A monthly bulletin

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED